

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A guide device for use with a spinal plate having at least one pair of screw bores formed therein, the guide device comprising:

an elongate shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a guide member coupled to the distal end of the elongate shaft and including first and second lumens extending therethrough ~~in fixed and immovable relative relation~~ to one another, the first and second lumens having central axes that extend in a plane that is parallel to opposed superior and inferior surfaces of the guide member; and

first and second opposed alignment tabs extending distally from the opposed superior and inferior surfaces of the guide member, the first and second opposed alignment tabs being adapted to interact with a spinal plate to position the guide member with respect to the spinal plate such that the first and second lumens in the guide member are aligned with a pair of corresponding screw bores formed in the spinal plate.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 1, wherein the first and second opposed alignment tabs are adapted to non-fixedly interact with a spinal plate to align the guide member with the spinal plate.

4-6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 1, further comprising at least one protrusion that extends distally from the guide member and that is adapted to be disposed within a corresponding bore formed in the spinal plate.

8-10. (Canceled).

11. (Withdrawn) The guide device of claim 1, wherein the guide member has a substantially

rectangular, elongate shape and the first and second lumens extend therethrough.

12. (Withdrawn) The guide device of claim 11, wherein the guide member includes opposed transverse surfaces extending between the opposed superior and inferior surfaces, the transverse surfaces having a width that is less than a width of the superior and inferior surfaces.

13-15. (Canceled).

16. (Original) The guide device of claim 1, wherein a distal surface of the guide member has a shape that conforms to the shape of a spinal plate.

17. (Original) The guide device of claim 1, wherein the first and second lumens are positioned at an angle with respect to one another.

18-24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 1, wherein the first and second alignment tabs are adapted to loosely interact with a spinal plate such that the guide member can pivot with respect to the spinal plate.

26. (Withdrawn) The guide device of claim 1, wherein the first and second lumens have an adjustable length.

27. (Original) The guide device of claim 1, wherein the proximal end on the elongate shaft is positioned at an angle with respect to a distal portion of the elongate shaft.

28. (Currently Amended) A guide device for use with a spinal plate having at least one screw bore formed therein, the guide device comprising:
an elongate shaft having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a guide member coupled to the distal end of the elongate shaft and including first and second lumens extending therethrough, the lumens having central axes that extend in a plane that is parallel to opposed superior and inferior surfaces of the guide member; and

first and second opposed alignment tabs extending distally from the superior and inferior surfaces of the guide member, the first and second opposed alignment tabs being adapted to non-fixedly interact by abutting with an edge of a spinal plate ~~without engaging the spinal plate~~ to position the guide member with respect to the spinal plate such that the first and second lumens in the guide member are aligned with at least one corresponding screw bore formed in the spinal plate.

29-51. (Canceled).

52. (Currently Amended) A guide device for use with a spinal plate having at least one pair of screw bores formed therein, the guide device comprising:

an elongate shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a guide member coupled to the distal end of the elongate shaft and including first and second lumens extending therethrough in fixed relation to one another, the lumens having central axes that extend in a plane that is parallel to opposed superior and inferior surfaces of the guide member;

first and second at least one alignment tabs extending distally from at least one of the opposed superior and inferior surfaces of the guide member, the ~~at least one first and second alignment tabs~~ being adapted to interact with a spinal plate to position the guide member with respect to the spinal plate such that the first and second lumens in the guide member are aligned with a pair of corresponding screw bores formed in the spinal plate; and

at least one protrusion that is formed on and extends distally from the guide member and that is adapted to be disposed within a corresponding bore formed in the spinal plate.

53. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 52, wherein the at least one alignment tab comprises first and second alignment tabs extending distally from the superior and inferior surfaces.

54. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 52, wherein the at least one tab is adapted to non-fixedly interact with a spinal plate to align the guide member with the spinal plate.

55. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 52, wherein the at least one alignment tab is adapted to prevent rotation between the guide member and a spinal plate when the guide member is mated to a spinal plate.

56. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 55, wherein the at least one alignment tab comprises an oval protrusion that extends distally from a distal end of the guide member.

57. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 52, wherein a distal surface of the guide member has a shape that conforms to the shape of a spinal plate.

58. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 52, wherein the first and second lumens are positioned at an angle with respect to one another.

59-60. (Cancelled).

61. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 52, wherein the at least one alignment tab is adapted to loosely interact with a spinal plate such that the guide member can pivot with respect to the spinal plate.

62. (Previously Presented) The guide device of claim 52, wherein the proximal end on the elongate shaft is positioned at an angle with respect to a distal portion of the elongate shaft.

63. (Cancelled).